

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (twice amended): A vascular catheter comprising:

an elongated tubular member with a proximal shaft portion and a distal shaft portion, the distal shaft ~~section~~ portion has a first stiffness;

an intravascular device on the distal shaft portion, the distal shaft ~~section~~ portion has a second stiffness at the intravascular device position, the second stiffness is greater than the first stiffness; and

a transition member on the distal shaft portion bridging the first stiffness and second stiffness, the transition member having a third stiffness intermediate the first stiffness and the second stiffness.

Claim 2 (original): A catheter of claim 1 wherein the transition member comprises a tubular member.

Claim 3 (original): A catheter of claim 1 wherein the transition member is positioned on the distal shaft section on at least one side of the intravascular device.

Claim 4 (original): A catheter of claim 1 wherein the transition member is positioned on the distal shaft section on both sides of the intravascular device.

Claim 5 (original): A catheter of 1 wherein the transition member comprises a radiopaque marker.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A vascular catheter for performing vascular procedures, the vascular catheter comprising:

an elongated shaft having an elongated inner shaft, an elongated outer shaft coaxial with the inner shaft, a proximal shaft section and a distal shaft section;

a means for performing a vascular procedure on the distal shaft section; and

a transition means on the distal shaft section adjacent the means for performing a vascular procedure, the transition means having a stiffness intermediate the proximal shaft and the distal shaft and the means for performing a vascular procedure on the distal shaft section.

Claim 7 (original): A vascular catheter of claim 6 wherein the means for performing a vascular procedure is a stent delivery system.

Claim 8 (original): A vascular catheter of claim 6 wherein the transition member is a sleeve on the inner shaft of the vascular catheter.

Claim 9 (original): A vascular catheter of claim 6 and wherein the transition member further comprises a radiopaque marker.